

## Message Text

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15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS (CU/CP): 1974 ARTS FESTIVAL

IN JORDAN

REF: AMMAN 0991; STATE 038447

RE HARKNESS BALLET FOR JORDAN FESTIVAL:

1. DEPT HAS SPONSORED HARKNESS ON ONE TOUR (AF/NEA) IN 1966. HOWEVER, HARKNESS COMPANY CHANGES EACH YEAR WITH NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR. CURRENT COMPANY HAS NOT YET BEEN EVALUATED BY DEPT. DANCE PANEL.

2. LATEST PANEL EVALUATION OF HARKNESS BALLET WAS MAY 1972 AND COMPANY WAS NOT ENDORSED ARTISTICALLY BY MAJORITY OF PANEL. PANEL SAID THAT WHILE IT WAS A BEAUTIFULLY PERFORM-  
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ING COMPANY, IT WAS WEAK CHOREOGRAPHICALLY AND ITS REPERTOIRE

(AT THAT TIME) WAS OFTEN IN BAD TASTE, FLAMBOYANT, DEVOID OF LYRICAL QUALITY. THE PANEL UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDED TO THE DEPT. THAT NO RPT NO USG FUNDS SHOULD GO INTO THIS COMPANY SINCE IT IS FINANCIALLY VIABLE.

3. HOWEVER, IN VIEW EMB AMMAN INTEREST IN HARKNESS COMPANY FOR JORDAN FESTIVAL, DEPARTMENT WILL SEEK DANCE PANEL RE-EVALUATION OF COMPANY. EARLIEST TIME RE-EVALUATION CAN TAKE PLACE IS APRIL 9, WHEN COMPANY IS SCHEDULED PERFORM IN NEW YORK. CAN EMB AMMAN WAIT UNTIL MID-APRIL FOR DECISION ON WHETHER HARKNESS BALLET IS APPROVED? DEPT. WILL, AS INDICATED IN DEPTTEL 37468, SIMULTANEOUSLY EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OF OTHER GROUPS AS PICKUP FROM EUROPE.

4. DEPT. REQUESTS AMMAN CLARIFY STATEMENT IN REF EMBTEL THAT POST-BAALBEK PERFORMANCES IN JORDAN, I.E. AFTER JULY 19 AND 20, WOULD BE QUOTE EARLIER THAN DATES QUEEN STATED IN QUOTE FOR FESTIVAL. POST'S ORIGINAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF FESTIVAL IN AMMAN 803 STATED DATES WERE JULY 15 TO AUGUST 15. ADVISE. CASEY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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